

Section II (Remarks)

Amendments to the Claims

By the present Amendment, claims 1, 3, 12, 17, and 22 have been amended and claim 4 has been cancelled. Claims 2, 5-21, and 23-27 are pending. No new matter within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §132(a) has been introduced by the foregoing amendments.

The amendments made herein are fully consistent with and supported by the originally-filed disclosure of this application. Support for the amendments can be found, *inter alia*, in the previously presented claims, and other original disclosure of the application, including the specification at page 7, line 26 to page 8, line 27, describing the system illustratively shown in Figures 1-3.

The currently amended claim 1 is based on previously presented claims 1 and 4. In particular, the currently amended claim 1 has the feature of the establishment of a first telephonic connection between the connector and the requested communication center, and the subsequent establishment of a second connection between the contact requester and the connector, for the establishment of the complete connection between the contact requester and the communication center. Additionally, amended claim 1 has the feature that the establishment of the first and/or the second connection is repeatable until the complete connection is established.

Independent claim 12 has been amended to incorporate the features of the currently amended claim 1.

Independent method claim 17 has been amended correspondingly to claim 1.

Independent claim 22 has also been amended in a similar manner to claim 1.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the May 30, 2008 Office Action, claims 1, 2, 8 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wilson (EP1195975; hereinafter “Wilson”).

Applicant traverses this rejection.

The applicant has amended claims 1 and 17 to include the features of the establishment of a first telephonic connection between the connector and the requested communication center and the subsequent establishment of a second connection between the contact requester and the connector, for the establishment of the complete connection between the contact requester and the communication center added. Additionally, the feature that the establishment of the first and/or the second connection is repeatable until the complete connection is established has been added to the claims.

These features are not found in Wilson. The Applicant submits that the rejection of claims 1 and 17 under 35 USC 102 is therefore moot and requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

With respect to claim 2, the Examiner contends that Wilson teaches a look-up table having a list of communications centers and a correlated list of destination identifiers, whereby the connector uses the look-up table to establish the requested one of the plurality of communications centers from the destination identifier. The applicant notes that claim 2 is dependent on claim 1 and as such incorporates all of the features of claim 1. The applicant therefore submits that the rejection of claim 2 is also moot and requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

With respect to claim 8, the Examiner asserts that Wilson teaches the messages in a text format, an audio format or an image format. The Applicant notes that claim 8 is dependent on currently amended claim 1 and submits that the rejection is now moot. The Applicant requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 3-7, 9-10, 12 and 18-21 as being unpatentable over Wilson in view of Wildman et al.

Wildman fails to cure the deficiencies of claims 1, 12 and 17 from which claims 3, 5-7, 9-10 and 18-21 depend.

Concerning previously presented claim 4, the features of claim 4 have been incorporated in claim 1. The Examiner noted that Wildman teaches that the connector establishes a connection between the connector and the requested one of the plurality of communications centers and subsequently establishes a connection between the connector and the contact requester, thereby establishing the connection between the communications center and the contact requester. However, Wildman fails to disclose the feature that this is repeated until a connection is established. The Applicant therefore submits that Wildman fails to disclose all of the features of claim 1 that are not otherwise found in Wilson.

Claim 11 has been rejected as being unpatentable over Wilson in view of Gechter et al. The Applicant notes that Gechter fails to cure the deficiencies of claim 3 from which claim 11 depends.

Claims 13-16 are rejected as being unpatentable under Wilson in view of Wildman et al and further in view of Gechter et al. The Applicant notes that neither Wildman nor Gechter et al cures the deficiencies of claim 12, from which claims 13-16 depend.

Claims 22-27 are rejected as being unpatentable over Wilson in view of Shires. The Applicant notes that Shires fails to cure the deficiencies of claim 22 with respect to Wilson.

In the light of the foregoing, the Applicant submits that all outstanding rejections have been overcome and that the instant application is in condition for allowance. The Applicant therefore respectfully requests early allowance.

D. Fee Payable for Additional Independent Claim

By the present Amendment, claim 22 is amended from dependent to independent form, adding one new independent claim in excess of the three independent claims (claims 1, 12, and 17) for which payment was previously made. The total number of claims remains unchanged.

Payment of the \$210.00 large entity fee specified 37 C.F.R. § 1.16(h) for one additional independent claim is being made by online credit card payment at the time of submission of this EFS response.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, all of applicant's pending claims 1-3 and 5-27 are patentably distinguished over the art, and in form and condition for allowance. The examiner is requested to favorably consider the foregoing, and to responsively issue a Notice of Allowance. If any issues require further resolution, the examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at (919) 419-9350 to discuss same.

Respectfully submitted,

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